

## Remarks

### I. 35 U.S.C. §102

#### A. The Rejection over Elzur

Claims 1, 3-4, 21, 23, 28-31 and 33 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,427,169 to Elzur.

##### 1. Claim 1

Regarding claim 1, the latest Office Action states, on pages 2 and 3:

As per claim 1, Elzur discloses an interface device for a computer, the interface device connectable to a network and a storage unit, the storage unit including a disk drive, the interface device comprising:

- A sequencer including a hardware logic circuit configured to process a transport layer header of a network packet (column 2, lines 43-47, 55-58, 64-67, column 3, lines 1-4);
- A memory adapted to store control information regarding a network connection being handled by said device (column 4, lines 2-4, 15-17, 62-67);
- A mechanism for associating said packet with said control information (column 4, lines 20-30, column 5, lines 5-10).
- selecting whether to process said packet by said computer or to send data from said packet to the storage unit, thereby avoiding the computer (column 5, lines 59-65, column 6, lines 7-10, 42-52);
- the storage unit including a disk drive (column 11, lines 57-64).

Although applicants disagree with this rejection, as previously discussed, in an effort to expedite prosecution applicants have amended claim 1 to remove the recitation of “the interface device connectable to a network and a storage unit, the storage unit including a disk drive” from the preamble, because the preamble is not being affording patentable weight.

Applicants have also amended claim 1 to recite, in part, “a first network port” and “a second network port.” Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 16, lines 3-6 of the application. Applicants have also amended claim 1 to recite, in part, “control information defining a transport layer connection established by the computer and handled by said device.” Support for this amendment can be found, for example, on page 24, line 30 – page 25, line 2 of the application. Applicants have also amended claim 1 to recite, in part, “sending data from said packet via a second network port to the storage unit, thereby avoiding the computer.” Support for this amendment can

be found, for example, on page 14, lines 16-20 of the application. Applicants respectfully assert that neither Elzur nor any other reference cited teaches or suggests amended claim 1.

Independent claims 21 and 28 have been amended in a manner similar to that of claim 1, and applicants respectfully assert that those independent claims are patentable for similar reasons. Dependent claims 3, 23, 29 and 30 have been amended to comport with the amendments to the respective independent claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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